

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 73

April 7, 2000, 12:16 a.m.
Page S-2402 Temp. Record

BUDGET RESOLUTION/NIH Funding

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2001-2005 . . . S.Con. Res. 101. Domenici amendment No. 3076 to the Specter amendment No. 2994.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 45-55

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con. Res. 101, the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2001-2005: will set total spending at \$1.829 trillion and total revenues at \$2.003 trillion; will cut the debt held by the public (money that the Federal Government owes to creditors other than itself) by \$174 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2001 and by \$996 billion over the next 5 years; will fully fund Medicare (all of the President's proposed \$14 billion in Medicare provider cuts were rejected); will set aside \$40 billion for FYs 2001-2005 in a reserve fund for legislation to comprehensively reform Medicare while providing seniors with a prescription drug benefit; will save the entire \$976 billion in Social Security trust fund surpluses over the next 5 years for debt reduction and will enforce those savings through a 60-vote point of order; will ensure a non-Social Security budget surplus for the third year in a row (which will mark the first time since 1947-49 that the Federal budget has been balanced for 3 years running); will provide for \$13 billion in tax relief for FY 2001 and \$150 billion over the next 5 years (which will be sufficient relief to address the marriage penalty tax, to provide increased health care access to the uninsured, to adopt small-employer tax relief, and to expand educational opportunities); will adhere to the FY 2001 discretionary caps of \$578 billion in outlays but will establish a mechanism to adjust these statutory caps to \$623 billion; will create a firewall to protect the defense budget from being raided for other spending; and will create new points of order to limit advance appropriations, delayed obligations, and the use of the emergency spending designation for non-emergency spending.

The Specter amendment would increase budget function 450 (health) by \$1.6 billion with the assumption that the extra money would be used to increase National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding by another \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2001 (the resolution already assumes an increase of \$1.1 billion for the NIH, for total NIH funding of \$19 billion). No offsets would be provided.

The Domenici amendment to the Specter amendment would strike the Specter amendment's proposed increase in budget function 450 (health; the proposed increase would be for NIH funding; under this resolution function 450 will receive \$169.2 billion

(See other side)

YEAS (45)		NAYS (55)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (45 or 82%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (10 or 18%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Allard	Helms	Abraham	Akaka	Kennedy		
Ashcroft	Hutchinson	Chafee	Baucus	Kerrey		
Bennett	Hutchison	Collins	Bayh	Kerry		
Bond	Inhofe	DeWine	Biden	Kohl		
Brownback	Kyl	Jeffords	Bingaman	Landrieu		
Bunning	Lott	Mack	Boxer	Lautenberg		
Burns	Lugar	McCain	Breaux	Leahy		
Campbell	McConnell	Santorum	Bryan	Levin		
Cochran	Murkowski	Snowe	Byrd	Lieberman		
Coverdell	Nickles	Specter	Cleland	Lincoln		
Craig	Roberts		Conrad	Mikulski		
Crapo	Roth		Daschle	Moynihan		
Domenici	Sessions		Dodd	Murray		
Enzi	Shelby		Dorgan	Reed		
Fitzgerald	Smith, Bob		Durbin	Reid		
Frist	Smith, Gordon		Edwards	Robb		
Gorton	Stevens		Feingold	Rockefeller		
Gramm	Thomas		Feinstein	Sarbanes		
Grams	Thompson		Graham	Schumer		
Grassley	Thurmond		Harkin	Torricelli		
Gregg	Voinovich		Hollings	Wellstone		
Hagel	Warner		Inouye	Wyden		
Hatch			Johnson			

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:
1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:
AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

in budget authority and \$165.8 billion in outlays; out of that total, the Labor Appropriations Subcommittee will have authority to budget for the NIH the \$19 billion assumed by this resolution, or it may budget more or less if it wishes, as long as it keeps function 450 spending within its allocation).

NOTE: After the vote, the Specter amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

Our colleagues accept the funding assumptions that we have made in this resolution, which include a large increase in funding for the NIH of \$1.1 billion within function 450, and which also include much less generous funding assumptions for the other programs in function 450. Presumably they are willing to accept our economizing suggestions for those programs. If they believe that NIH funding should be \$1.7 billion higher this year than we assumed in putting this budget together, then they should be willing to take the same step that we did by limiting spending more in other areas covered by that \$169 billion function. That amount is just 1 percent of function 450. When we consider appropriations bills later this year, the NIH funding level assumed in this resolution will not be binding; if the appropriators want to add another \$1.7 billion or even more they are fully allowed to do so, as long as they do not exceed the allocation cap. Our colleagues, though, want to avoid the hard budget choices, so they have instead just asked that they be allowed to spend more money. We oppose that effort. Like our colleagues, we believe that NIH funding should be increased; unlike our colleagues, we are willing to set priorities by saying that other programs that are less important than the NIH should be cut in order to provide that increase. The Domenici amendment would retain the budget resolution's assumptions. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment, and urge appropriators to stay within the budget by cutting other spending if they decide to add more than the \$1.1 billion increase for NIH that is budgeted for by this resolution.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

In 1997 the Senate voted unanimously in favor of the Mack amendment, which urged Congress to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health over 5 years. Huge progress has been made toward meeting that goal. This year, if we are going to stay on track, we will have to increase NIH funding by \$2.7 billion. This resolution will only provide a \$1.1-billion increase. Therefore, we have offered the Specter amendment to provide the extra money needed. Some Senators have suggested that the Appropriations Subcommittee could instead choose to economize, cutting other areas in the more than \$150 billion in spending under its control in order to be able to afford a larger increase in NIH spending. That idea sounds good in general, but once one gets into the specifics of which programs to cut it is next to impossible to get a majority of Members to agree. This budget function contains other health programs, labor programs, and programs that address worker safety. This resolution already assumes frugal funding for those programs; we doubt, therefore, that we will be able to get Senators to agree to cut them in order to increase NIH funding even more. Thus, if we are going to stick to our commitment to double NIH funding over 5 years, and we believe we should, then more money is needed. The Domenici amendment would deny the extra funds needed; the Specter amendment would provide them. We urge our colleagues to reject this amendment and then to pass the underlying Specter amendment.